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plies and materials for the construction and equipment of new buildings, used in connection with the various state institutions and for all state departments and officials.

He is also authorized to purchase clothing and wearing apparel for the inmates of the public institutions. When there is need of materials or supplies in excess of \$500, for any institution or department, the purchasing agent is required to advertise for sealed proposals to furnish such materials. The purchasing agent makes such requisition as may be necessary from time to time upon the auditor of accounts, for the necessary funds to carry out the provision of the act. He is required to render an account monthly to the auditor of all expenditures of his department for the preceding month. He is obliged to give a bond to the state of \$20,000 with sureties approved by the governor; and to report biennially to the general assembly a detailed account of all contracts made by him, the name of the party with whom, the purpose for which they were made and the amount paid on each contract. He must also render a detailed statement of all the supplies, provisions, materials and equipment furnished the several institutions, departments and officials and an inventory of all property belonging to the state at the several state institutions and state departments under his control on the first day of July preceding the biennial session of the legislature. The provisions of the act do not apply to the military department and the Soldiers' Home.

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Efficiency and Economy in State Government: In a number of States important investigations have recently been made, or are now under way, with a view to securing greater efficiency and economy in state administration. In most instances, emphasis is being placed on the organization and consolidation of the heterogeneous and confusing list of state boards, bureaus and commissions, as a necessary preliminary step towards an efficient and economical management of state business.

The New Jersey economy and efficiency commission was established in 1912, to consider methods for consolidating different departments of the state government whose duties are intimately related. It consists of two members of each House, and three citizens, appointed by the governor, all serving without salaries. The work of this commission was discussed at a conference called by the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce in December.

Early in 1913, Governor Sulzer of New York appointed three citizens as a committee of inquiry, to make an investigation of the expenditures of the State. The report of this committee, dated March 24, 1913, analyzed the appropriations and estimates for appropriations, with recommendations for large reductions in the appropriations and also for important legislative measures for the consolidation of related bureaus and the establishment of a permanent department of efficiency and economy. No important results have thus far followed this report; but a similar committee has been continued by Governor Glynn.

A joint resolution of the Pennsylvania general assembly of 1913 provides for an economy and efficiency commission of three members, to be appointed by the governor, to investigate the various state offices, bureaus and commissions and to recommend changes to secure greater uniformity, economy and efficiency. The members of the commission are each to receive an annual compensation of \$3,000; and the total appropriation for its work is \$10,000. Appointments had not been made at the end of December.

In Illinois a more thorough investigation has been authorized by a resolution of the general assembly, providing for a joint committee, four members from each house, to investigate all departments of the state government, for the purpose of combining and centralizing the duties of related boards and commissions. Prof. John A. Fairlie of the University of Illinois has been appointed as director in charge of this investigation.

The governor of Minnesota has appointed a commission of seven citizens to conduct a similar investigation in that State. Prof. John H. Gray of the State University is a member of the commission; and Prof. E. D. Durand, formerly director of the United States census, has been appointed to take charge of the investigation.

In Iowa, under a joint resolution of the general assembly, the joint committee on retrenchment and reform was authorized to employ expert accountants and efficiency engineers to examine into the conduct and expenditures of the various state offices, boards and commissions and to recommend legislation and appropriations. Some interim reports have been presented; and the complete report is expected to appear shortly.

The South Dakota legislature provided for a committee to investigate state offices, departments and institutions. This investigation has been under way for some time; and seems to be directed towards the methods of the existing offices and departments, with little or no reference to possible changes by reorganization and consolidation.